

## TELEVISION

**'Undercover' unveils a King assassination**By Lydia Gibson  
USA TODAY

What really happened April 4, 1968, in Memphis?

Today in court, James Earl Ray, convicted in the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., will argue for a new trial. And tonight on Fox's *New York Undercover*, supervising producer Reggie Rock Bythewood spins his own tale of who else may have been in on the killing.

"(Ray) may have pulled the trigger, but I don't think he acted alone," says Bythewood, who wrote tonight's episode (9 ET/PT), which implicates the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a far-reaching

murder conspiracy.

The episode, "Promised Land," is a departure from the show's regular stories of drug raids and corruption in New York.

What begins as a typical shooting of a New York cab driver turns out to be part of a larger crime that involves the FBI. The case leads the show's cops, J.C. Williams (Malik Yoba) and Eddie Torres (Michael DeLorenzo), to Washington, D.C. There, they find a computer disk with files that shed new light on King's assassination.

"This show gives us a chance to explore other theories. We are not attempting to say who murdered Dr. King," Bythewood says. "By just raising a question, we are challenging people's perspective."

Ray, now 68, pleaded guilty to King's murder and is serving life in prison. His lawyers will argue today in a Memphis court that the rifle Ray is said to have used to kill King was not the murder weapon.

Bythewood, 31, got his TV start as a writer and story editor on NBC's *Cosby Show* spinoff *A Different World* for two years. He joined *Undercover* in 1994.

His best notices, however, have come for his feature film debut: the screenplay for Spike Lee's critically acclaimed *Get on the Bus*.

"He is a terrific writer because he has a point of view," says *Undercover* executive producer Dick Wolf. "He can also write well and fast — that's a select group."



Bythewood